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Ant colony optimization algorithm with Internet of Vehicles for Intelligent Traffic Control System

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Abstract

Vehicles present on the Internet of Vehicles (IoV) can communicate with each other in order to determine the status of the road and vehicle in real time. These parameters are used to estimate the average speed and identify the optimal route to reach the destination. However, the government traffic departments are unable to use these valuable traffic data and thus more traffic jam, congestion and road accident occurs. In order to overcome this issue, this paper proposes an effective traffic control system with the help of IoV technology. The proposed method is demonstrated in the study are of Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, India. The street maps are segmented into number small number of distinct maps. Ant colony algorithm is applied to each map in order to find the optimal route. In addition, Fuzzy logic based traffic intensity calculation function is proposed in this paper to model the heavy traffic. The proposed IoV based route selection method is compared with the existing shortest path selection algorithms such as Dijikstra algorithm, Kruskal's algorithm and Prim's algorithm. The experimental results proved the good performance of the proposed IoV based route selection method.

Keywords: Internet of Vehicles; Effective Traffic Control; Shortest Path Selection; Dijikstra algorithm; Kruskal's algorithm; Prim's algorithm

1. Introduction

Internet of Vehicles (IoV) paradigm originally developed with the help of Internet of Things (IoT) technology. IoV is widely used in various environments it includes communications, transportation, information and automotive technology. The Internet of Vehicles (IoV) is an expected conjunction of the Internet of Things and the mobile Internet. The IoV comprised of all current and new vehicles, either integrated or fitted with two-way RF equipment [51,52]. The IoV uses Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V), Vehicle-to-Road (V2R), Vehicle-to-Human (V2H) and Vehicle-to-Sensor (V2S) communication networks to communicate

between public networks and vehicles. It is predicted that more than 80% of vehicles sold globally in 2020 will be connected, either by smart-phone or embedded device integration [53].

IoV is one of the possible technologies to improve road safety, and provide in-car entertainment and on-board Internet services, such as, social networking, online media streaming, online navigation and real-time traffic report acquisition. Nowadays, a range of computing technologies such as "5G", "cloud computing" and "big data" have been used to monitor the vehicles, road traffic analysis, accident identification system [54,55]. Moreover, the convergence of IoV technology encompasses environmental protection, information communications, energy conservation, and safety. Due to the rapid growth in connected vehicles, many research issues need to be addressed it includes security, privacy and trust, network resource optimization and QoS guarantee for IoV [56].

Internet of Everything comprises of IoT and IoV. The Internet of Everything is used to connect various physical devices and user products with the help of Internet. It is assumed that in future all the devices will be connected to the Internet and all operations are done with the help of Device to Device (D2D) communication. The following technologies are plays a vital role in Internet of Everything it includes Device to Device Communications, Machine-to-Machine communications, Machine to People Communications, and People to People Communications. Nowadays, IoE is used in many applications in terms of good performance and response time. The major applications of IoE in vehicles and road network include smart traffic monitoring, smart parking system and self-drive cars.

In addition, IoE is also used to monitor the human health (personal health monitoring of patients, smart drug recommendation system and smart clinical care system). People can use smart devices such as smart watch, smart belt and smart band to observe their health status. The collected data from the various smart healthcare devices are transmitted to the doctor and clinical care system to take necessary actions. Nowadays, various smart wearable devices are identified to collect various health status it include blood pressure, body glucose level, heart rate, body temperature, physical movement and so on. In addition, IoE is also used in various smart home applications such as window control, door control, room temperature maintenance, light control and security alarms. The above mentioned applications are must transfer the signal to the server or user with good response time.

In order to sense and collect various data from IoT devices, there is a need of advance high speed wireless networks. Nowadays, there is a massive improvement and advancement in wireless network technologies such as 4G network to 5G networks. This advancement in wireless network technology enables the physical devices to sense the signal and transfer to the user and server in terms of good response time. Moreover, the 5G network is also used to overcome the various issues in wireless networks it includes network connectivity, latency issues and improve the data transfer speed between the various IoT devices and user or server. The above mentioned advanced technologies such as IoT, IoE and 5G mobile network are used to change the day-to-day environment of individual's life.

Vehicular Ad-Hoc Networks (VANETs) is a subclass of mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs). In recent years, VANETs play an important role in intelligent transportation system. In addition, VANETs do not follow any fixed infrastructure and instead they follow dynamic routing principle. Hence, vehicles themselves provide a range of network functionality in dynamic manner. The dissimilar insight of the vehicle in IoV and VANETs creates these two paradigm vary primarily in the communications, networking, device and features. In general, vehicles exist in VANET distribute messages among other vehicles exist in the network. The vehicles present in the VANET are also called as mobile nodes and they follow an inter-vehicle communication network principle.

S.No.	Proposed Approach	Authors	Outcome
1	Delay-optimal VSN routing algorithm	Choi et al. [18]	High packet delivery
2	Vehicle-logo location algorithm	Liu et al. [19]	Used to classify the vehicles
3	Symmetric double sided two way ranging algorithm	Saqib et al. [20]	Vehicle tracing system
4	Dynamic traffic monitoring system	Arbabi et al. [21]	Monitoring of travel time and location
5	Intelligent traffic flow control system using RFID	Chao et al. [22]	Traffic and accident control
6	Vertical distance vector routing algorithm	Bazzi et al. [23] Alexander et al. [24]	Reliable communication system
7	WSN cross layer design approach	Cabezas et al. [25]	Latency and jitter are improved
8	User customizable data-centric routing.	Zhou et al. [26]	Fast traffic information delivery
9	GPS based tracking system	Mazloumi et al. [27]	Reduced travel time and shortest path
10	Traffic monitoring system using Bluetooth	Friesen et al. [28]	Monitoring vehicle density
11	Urban monitoring system	Bruno et al. [29]	Less redundancy information and consumes less network bandwidth.

Table 1. Routing algorithms for traffic control

In addition to VANETs, the following dynamic vehicular mobile communication systems are exist in the day-to-day environment it includes Vehicle to Human (V2H), Vehicle to

Infrastructure (V2I) and Vehicle to Internet Vehicle to Sensor (V2S). Nowadays, cloud computing technology has considered as a new emerging environment to address various issues exist in the real time environment it includes healthcare analytics, education development, business process, natural resource monitoring and so on. Liu [2] proposed a novel three-level "Client-Connection-Cloud" system to monitor and control the vehicles with the help of Cloud-Assisted IoV (CAIV) system. The objective of CAIV system is to monitor, actuate and navigate the embedded sensor vehicles and other devices in the cloud virtually.

S.No.	Proposed Approach	Authors	Outcome
1	Evaluation of traffic signal control algorithms	Ahmad et al. [30]	Execution time measurement
2	Traffic control using VANET	Knorr et al. [31]	Traveling time significantly reduced
3	Adaptive traffic flow algorithm	Abishek et al. [32]	Reduce Congestion
4	Traffic random early detection algorithm	Laisheng et al. [33]	Reduce Congestion
5	Traffic model using wireless traffic lights	Dragoi et al. [34]	Travel time reduced up to 40%.
6	Circuit patrol and Greedy patrol algorithms for traffic control	Du et al. [35]	The traffic estimation error is significantly minimized
7	ZigBee based traffic flow control system	Eren et al. [36]	Smooth traffic flow and less end-to-end delays
8	Data spreading algorithms for	Skordylis et	High packet delivery ratio, low
	traffic data acquisition	al. [37]	delivery delay and less communication
			cost

|--|

The CAIV system process and manage the large volume of data collected from physical components in a real-time, scalable, on-demand, reliable and efficient manner. Moreover, the integration of cloud computing paradigm with IoV seems to be a significant method to advancing the real time applications. Especially, elastic re-configuration, virtualization, and multi-tenancy of resources are found to be a significant method in cloud computing to store and process the large volume of data (big data) generated from IoV environments. Nowadays, a number of researchers have developed many real time IoV architectures and cloud based data analytical methods to monitor, actuate and navigate the embedded sensor vehicles.

The advancements in IoV technologies help to make transportation safer, cleaner and more effective. In recent years, IoV plays an important role in the clean traffic environment. This would also improve traffic efficiency and reducing the pollution and travel time. The Mobile Crowd Sensing (MCS) technology is found to be a significant solution to monitor and control the traffic congestion. In MCS, a number of mobile devices such as sensor-equipped vehicles and smartphones are used to transfer the traffic data to the traffic monitoring system. Afterwards, the results or shortest path identified by the traffic data analysis is forwarded to the traffic authorities of the traffic situation or drivers.

Section 1 presents the introduction about IoV, VANET, mobile networks and current traffic issues. The recent works done in IoV based traffic control system is described in section 2 in detail. The proposed IoV based traffic control and best route identification method is presented in section 3. The results are discussed in section 4. The performance of the proposed IoV based traffic control and best route identification method is evaluated in section 5. Finally, section 6 concludes the research work with a summary of results.

2. Related work

IoV is used to monitor the patients' health status in the following ways it includes inambulatory, in-hospital, in-clinic, and open environment monitoring. However, there is a need for mobile hospital and mobile doctors to provide emergency care services to the patient when the patient health condition getting worse. In order to overcome this issue, various mobile ambulance and mobile doctors are used by the healthcare department to overcome such circumstances. However, there is a need for an effective communication platform to communicate the mobile doctors and to provide the clinical solutions to the patients. In past decades, VANET is widely used to communicate and transfer message between the vehicles.

VANET consists of Vehicle to Vehicle (V2V) and Vehicle to Roadside (V2R) communications to transfer the signals between the vehicles [1]. However, there is need for improving the communication speed between the vehicles [2, 3]. Leng and Zhao have identified the IoT based traffic management system to reduce the road traffic and accidents [4]. In general, vehicles in IoV system can communicate each other, but there is an issue in content distribution among these vehicles. In order to solve this issue, Kumar et al. and Gerla et al. have identified a Markov Decision Process (MDP) based Bayesian coalition game (BCG) as-a-service in cloud to distribute the content among various vehicles in IoV system [5,6]. In addition, Kumar et al. have used Bayesian coalition game (BCG) and learning automata (LA) to process the large volume of spatio-temporal data in IoV system [7]. Paul et al. have proposed the Cooperative Cognitive Intelligence architecture to solve spectral scarcity and high mobility issues in mobile networks [8]. In addition, a various cloud service providers provides various services to implement the IoV system. In order to select the best cloud service, Hoang and Niyato have identified the gaming method to solve pricing competition in IoV system [9]. Nowadays, a number of vehicles are used daily by more and more people and thus more issues and delay exist in vehicle toll payment system [10].

In order to overcome this issue, Pašalić has identified the IoT based vehicle toll payment system [11]. Similarly, Alam and Vrushali Pavitrakar have identified the platform to share the transport related travel safety rules, efficiency, and comfort techniques with other vehicles [12, 13]. In addition, Nitti and Alam have used VANET and Social Internet of Things to find the social relationship between the vehicles in IoV system [14, 15]. Similarly, Wan et al. have developed a mobile crowd sensing technology to solve heavy traffic issues in road networks [16]. Prinsloo and Malekian have developed the RFID based accurate vehicle location system to find the vehicles in efficient and real time manner [17]. The comparisons of existing works are surveyed and listed as shown in the Table1. The analysed detail consists of architectures, routing algorithms and data collection schemes of various existing methods. The trickiness situation on roads is said to be traffic congestion. The traffic congestion can be typified based on queuing, slower vehicle speeds and longer trip times. The WSN-based techniques and schemes are used to reduce traffic congestion. These techniques are surveyed and listed as a table 2.

3. Internet of Things for Connected Vehicles

More commonly, Internet connection is used for the laptop, PDA, desktop computers and tablets to store and transfer the data. As advancements in wireless technologies and smart devices, various types of physical devices are identified to sense the various signals with the help of Internet. These devices are connected with the Internet and transfer the signals to the server in continuous manner. For example, advanced wearable medical devices such as body temperature belt and heart pressure watch are implanted with the human body to observe the specific health measure. These health measures are collected and transfer to the doctor or healthcare department in continuous manner. In addition, more applications of IoE include smart vehicle driving system, smart city, smart traffic control and weather monitoring applications. IoE technologies are classified in to various types such as digital sensor devices, smart interconnected wireless devices, smart industrial monitoring devices and various distributed hardware technologies. Recently, IoE is applied in information technology field to improve the business process. Especially, Cisco is one of the head institute for network technologies who has started using IoE devices for network applications. IoE is basically consists of four connections parts such as People, Things, Data and Process.

The term people represent the users on the IoE where the collected information from one individual is transferred to another with the help of internet. In recent years, people are interested to connect with each other via internet and to share data among them. Nowadays, PCs, TVs, tablets, and smart phones are used to connect the people and transfer the valuable information. Moreover, all the individuals are already connected with the internet with the help of social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. In recent years, due to advancement in internet towards IoE, individuals are able to connect each other in more related and helpful ways.



Fig. 1. Workflow of the proposed method

Things are play a vital role in IoE system to sense the valuable information from the physical devices that are connected with the internet. Data collected from the physical devices are used to enable the users to take a better decision when an emergency situation arises at an event. For example, when the patient health condition is worse ever before then alarm will be switch on and a notification will be send to the doctor or care holder. The sensor data collected from various IoT medical devices is transferred into the data store to process and make effective decisions when an emergency situation arises at an event.

The devices connected to the internet are used to collect the valuable information from the individuals or things. The IoT devices are usually sense a specific data and stream it over the internet. The collected data will be stored in the sensor server to process and extract the high value hidden information. Unprocessed data collected from various physical devices are analyzed and appropriate actions are taken at necessary time. For example, in healthcare industry, high and low glucose levels are used to monitor the normal glucose level of the patient in the healthcare department.

Processes play a vital role in monitoring the functions of data, people, and things. Processes are also used to bring the valuable information from the interconnection of data, people, and things. Accurate processes and connection are used to transfer the appropriate information and add value to the IoE system. The processes are uses various advanced wireless network technologies to transfer the valuable information to the destination. Nowadays, 5G mobile network are widely used in IoE system to transfer the data generated from the physical devices which are connected in the internet. The strong connection network between the devices, data, and individuals are used to identify business insights from IoE technologies. Recently, social networks and wearable devices are used to promote pertinent healthcare contributions to potential users.

4. IoV based intelligent traffic management

In recent decades, man-to-man and man-to-machine communications are often used in many applications in wireless networks. Nowadays, due to advancement in wireless technologies (4G networks, 5G networks and LTE) the man-to-man and man-to-machine communication are enhanced as machine-to-machine (M2M) communication network. This advancement is used to enhance and improve the field of vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication network. Moreover, the devices fixed in the machine-to-machine (M2M) network are always in moves dynamically from source to destination.

M2M communication is used in many applications it includes smart home, E-haelth, robotics, smart cities and wearable medical devices [38]. Sensors, actuators, routers, Wi-Fi and 4G/5G mobile networks are playing a vital role in M2M communication networks. In recent

decade, there is need to have an external environment or platform to support the communication between the sensor devices and server [39, 40, 41]. The communication platform would create more computation cost and overhead. In order to overcome this issue, M2M communication networks are identified with an advance communication technology. This advancement is used to enable the direct communication between source and destination without need for any additional platform or environment [42].

Moreover, senor devices are often used to observe the specific signal and transmit to the server. Once the server received the signal from the sensor devices then it takes a necessary action based on the signal received from the sensor. It would create latency and transmission delay in wireless communication [43]. In order to overcome this issue, Device-to-Device (D2D) is identified with the help of advance sensor communication technologies. More specifically, spectral bandwidth is used in the D2D communication to transfer the messages between the nearby mobile devices [44]. Recently, D2D communication networks are combined with 4G LTE advance mobile communication to reduce the transmission delay and latency in the data transmission [45]. The advancement in D2D communication also used to enable the mobile devices to transfer the large volume of data between the nearby mobile devices. In addition, D2D communication networks do not require any external environment or platform to enable the connection between the nearby mobile devices [46].

Vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication network is used to transfer the signal and information between the vehicles [47]. More commonly, the vehicle driving speed, geo location of the vehicle, travel direction, breaking data and lack of stability are transferred between the vehicles in V2V communication networks [48]. The V2V communication networks use a dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) between the vehicles [49]. As bus, car and smart traffic monitor transfer the data between the nearby vehicles, mesh network is widely used in V2V communication [50]. Generally, 5 to 10 hops are used to transfer the traffic signal for 1 mile distance. For example, if any driver chooses a wrong route then the V2V system enables the alarm or flashes the red light in the front panel.

In this paper, we have proposed a novel IoV based traffic management method to prevent heavy traffic formation and accidents. The proposed method is demonstrated on the study are of Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, India. The street maps are segmented into number small maps. Ant colony algorithm is applied on each map in order to find the optimal route. In addition, Fuzzy logic based traffic intensity calculation function is proposed in this paper to model the heavy traffic. The proposed IoV based traffic management method is applied for a continuous health monitoring system. The proposed method is classified into four stages as follows: map segmentation and graph conversion, ant colony optimization algorithm, computation of traffic intensity and Pheromone update. Fig. 1 represents the workflow of the proposed method.

4.1 Map Segmentation and Graph Conversion

The street maps are segmented into several parts with almost identical sizes. The segmented maps are used to model the dynamic vehicular environments. Moreover, significant routes are identified in each segmented maps independently instead of using whole map.

The segmented maps are converted to a graph where each graph is represented by set of nodes and links.

 $G_N = (O_N, P_N)$ (1) Where, O_N = represents the set of nodes L_M = represents the set of links

The segment routing table is maintained in each segment and updated dynamically. The Segment Routing Table (R_{ti}) is defined by,

 $\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{ti}} = G_{Ni} = (O_{Ni}, P_{Ni}) \quad (2)$

Where,

 R_{ti} = represents the routing table for segment i (i=1,2,...,n) where n represents the number of number of nodes in a segment.

Once the map is segmented and routing table is formed, then the ant colony algorithm is applied for each segment to update all edges and identify the best route.

Procedure of ACS algorithm

Begin

Initialize

While stopping criterion not satisfied do

Position each ant in a starting node

Repeat

For each ant do

Choose next node by applying same transition rule

Apply step by step pheromone update

End for

Until every ant has built a solution

Update best solution

Apply offline pheromone update

End while

End

4.2 Ant Colony Optimization Algorithm

The proposed ant colony algorithm uses forward ant and backward ant procedures to identify the optimal route to reach the destination. The number of vehicles currently moving on a road and the road length are collected simultaneously with the help of IoV technology. The computation of maximum number of vehicles $Max_{NV_{ij}}$ which can be on the road is defined by,

$$Max_NV_{ij} = \frac{LL_{ij}}{L_V + \Delta L} \times NL_{ij}$$
(3)

Where,

 LL_{ij} = represents the length of the road NL_{ij} = represents the number of roads in a street between node i and j ΔL = represents the average distance between two vehicles L_V = represents the average length of vehicles

In this paper, ΔL and L_V are taken as 3 m and 5 m respectively. The computation of density of vehicle (D_{ij}) is defined by,

$$D_{ij} = \frac{NV_{ij}}{Max_NV_{ij}} \tag{4}$$

In ant colony optimization, forward ants are used to find the optimal and shortest path to reach the destination. The movement of new position is defined by the forward ants as follows:

$$p_{ij}^{k}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{a(\partial_{ij}) + b(1 - \eta_{ij})}{\sum_{h \notin tabu_{k}} a(\partial_{ij}) + b(1 - \eta_{ij})} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 + \frac{1}{N_{j}} \end{pmatrix} & \text{if } j \notin tabu_{k}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(5)

Where,

 ∂_{ij} = represents the pheromone value of an ant in node i to move to node j and is calculated by backward ants using Equation (7).

 η_{ij} = represents the instantaneous state of the fuzzy value on the link from i to j and calculated by vehicle as ant.

a = represents the weight for the importance of ∂_{ij}

b = represents the weight for the importance of η_{ii}

 $tubu_k$ = represents the set of nodes connected to node i that an ant k has not visited yet

 N_i = represents number of neighbors for node j

If a forward ant reaches its destination, then the forward ant changes as a backward ant. Hence, the memory of forward ant is used by the backward ant to find optimal route.

4.3 Calculate fuzzy traffic intensity

The traffic intensity is computed with the help of two input parameters namely the number of lines (NL_{ij}) and present traffic on the same link. On the basis of NL_{ij} and present traffic the current instantaneous congestion state (D_{ij}) is computed dynamically.

As shown in Table 3 and Table 4, the fuzzy linguistic variables, Lines and Traffic are used as a input variable and Intensity is considered as a output variable.

Table 3 Lines and Traffic				
Linguistic Variable	Fuzzy Membership Function			
Very Low (VL)	(0,0,0.25)			
Low (L)	(0,0.25,0.5)			
Medium (M)	(0.25,0.5,0.75)			
High (H)	(0.5,0.75,1)			
Very High (VH)	(0.75,1,1)			

Table 4 Intensity				
Linguistic Variable	Fuzzy Numbers			
Very Low (VL)	(0,0,1)			
Low (L)	(0,1,3)			
Medium Low (ML)	(1,3,5)			
Medium (M)	(3,5,7)			
Medium High (MH)	(5,7,9)			
High (H)	(7,9,10)			
Very High (VH)	(9,10,10)			

The fuzzy inference system is defined by,

$$\mu_{Lines\cap Traffic} = \min(\mu_{Lines}, \mu_{Traffic})$$
(6)

The traffic intensity is represented as $\overline{y}_i = \{0.01, 0.15, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.85, 1\}$ and the average defuzzifier is defined by,

$$\eta_{ij} = y_i^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{20} \overline{y_i} \times \mu_{Lines \cap \text{Traffic}}}{\sum_{i=1}^{20} \overline{y_i}}$$
(7)

4.4 Pheromone update

The pheromone value of links is updated on the basis of backward ants' arrival time. The function to increase and decrease the pheromone value is defined by,

$$\tau_{ij}^{new} = (1-\rho)\tau_{ij}^{old} + \sum_{k=1}^{m} \Delta \tau_{ij}^{k}$$
(8)

Where,

 $\rho \in A[0,1]$ represents the pheromone evaporation value m = represents the number of nodes in the same segment

The computation of pheromone placed on links i and j by ant k is defined by,

$$\Delta \tau_{ij}^{k} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{LL_{ij}^{k}} + \frac{1}{TT_{ij}^{k}} + \frac{1}{D_{ij}^{k}} & if the \ k^{th} ant pass link \ i - j, \\ 0 & otherwise, \end{cases}$$
(9)

Where,

 TT_{ij}^{k} = represents the travel time D_{ij}^{k} = represents the vehicle density

 LL_{ij}^k = represents the length of each link which traverse by ant k

5. Performance Evaluation

The proposed IoV based route selection method is compared with the existing shortest path selection algorithms such as Dijikstra algorithm, Kruskal's algorithm and Prim's algorithm. The experimental results proved the good performance of the proposed IoV based route selection method. The average travel time and average waiting time are calculated for dynamic size of vehicles. The experimental results are depicted in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.





This paper proposed a novel IoV based traffic management method to prevent heavy traffic formation and accidents. The proposed method is demonstrated on the study are of Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, India. The street maps are segmented into number small number of distinct maps. Ant colony algorithm is applied on each map in order to find the optimal route. In addition, Fuzzy logic based traffic intensity calculation function is proposed in this paper to model the heavy traffic. The future work of this paper is to use the proposed IoV based traffic management method for a continuous health monitoring system.

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